

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Pastor's Message CANDLE AT THE WINDOW:

SPRING IS THE OPPOSITE OF WAR

I love these lines from the poet Rilke:

Once again the birds lift up the sky

That to our shoulders was too heavy.

When we are weighted down by the unthinkable domination of war, the basic life force of Earth and of wings brings us back and lifts us from despair. Right now is the “just yet” time of new green on the branches. Right now is the time of staring into the yellow trumpet of daffodils and remarking on their miracle. We belong to the Earth. We are not just on the Earth, we are of the Earth.

The Hilltowns are a place of knowing this, and living it. The weight of war is too much, too unthinkable to the human spirit. It goes against how we are encoded. Educator Robert Slavin says that the scrawny human being wouldn't have survived without cooperation. We turn to each other and all the ways we build community, and how the Earth moves us to feed and care for our broader circle.

In Poland there is a famous saying: *Gość w dom, Bóg w dom*. The English translation goes like this: A guest in the house is God in the house. Right now in Poland, churches are making room for hundreds to have a bed. Polish people are opening their homes, organizing food, welcoming Ukrainian people. The opposite of war is remembering our interconnection. The opposite of war is remembering the value of life, of looking into the eyes of neighbors, and connecting to people around the world who in the web of life are our kin.

— Rev. Sarah Pirtle

In These Hills

Episode 16 of *In These Hills*, John Bye's interview with Steve Emerson, is up on line. Please share the link with anyone you think might be interested. All previous episodes, of local people talking about their lives “in these hills” can be found at: newruraladvocate.org Click on Podcasts/In These Hills in the menu

For personal, church needs or questions please leave a message at the church 634-5508 for Sarah or Josh or contact Josh Wachtel at 634-5005.

*Enough with the April showers,
where are those May flowers?*

May Day at the Village Church 10 AM

BELTANE is the exact middle of the start of spring and the start of summer.

Traditionally Sarah Stockwell-Arthen would lead the celebration but this year it falls exactly on a regular church Sunday. She'll be back as a regular ceremony leader in the future. We won't have a May pole, but instead we'll do a flower ceremony. Please bring a jar or small vase so that you can carry back flowers you receive, and bring some to share if you can.

The second May church service will be on the 18th.

Quaker Meeting

There will be a Quaker meeting (The Hilltown Friends Worship Group) Sunday 22 May at 10 a.m. at The Village Church On Main Street in Cummington.

Depending on weather conditions, we may meet outside. Otherwise we will meet in the vestry.

We worship in silence unless one is so moved by the Spirit to stand and speak. Please join us.

Tim Walter

Home: 413-634-8098 Cell: 413-441-3295

Friday Night Café

We had so much fun last summer, let's do it again! Friday Night Cafe is headed back to the pavilion at Pettingill Park - our very own field of dreams - for a second summer season. Summer Season 2022 kicks off on May 27 with Josh Wachtel and special guests Galen Sanislos and Jeremiah Reagan. Showtime is 6:30 - 8:00 PM. BYO chairs, drinks, snacks. Donations for the performers are appreciated. Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community. See you there!

The music will continue through September on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Next up on June 10 will be Larz Young. Visit the Village Church on Facebook for more information. Questions? call 634-5398. The Friday Night Cafe is supported in part by grants from the Cummington, Ashfield, Chesterfield, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Cummington Historical Commission Kingman Tavern Historical Museum

William W. Streeter History Award

To all graduating High School seniors residing in Cummington:

This is your invitation to apply for the \$2,000 William W. Streeter History Award sponsored by the Cummington Historical Commission. Your acceptance to any accredited two or four-year college or university makes you eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted prior to May 15, 2022 and must include:

- At least a five-page double spaced essay, or recorded interview, or multimedia presentation about any aspect of Cummington history (i.e., people, places, events, organizations, families, etc.).
- Official transcript of your scholastic record.
- Two letters of reference, one of which must be from a person not associated with your school.

Applicants will be judged on these and the accuracy of information presented. The Cummington Historical Commission files are available by appointment to assist with your research.

Shortly after May 15, the members of the Cummington Historical Commission will meet and evaluate all applications. Winners will be personally notified and schools will receive an announcement that can be included in the awards assemblies. Actual payment of the award will be made to the student after successful completion of the first semester of college.

Winners are requested to volunteer three hours at the Kingman Tavern Museum on one Saturday of their choice during July and August.

Fully completed applications must be submitted by mail or to any member of the Cummington Historical Commission prior to May 15, 2022.

Cummington Historical Commission PO Box 10
Cummington MA 01026
historical@cummington-ma.gov

If you have questions or would like research assistance, please contact Karen Westergaard at 18kjwestergaard@gmail.com, or Carla Ness at carla@delaprealstate.com or 413.695.6569.

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the June issue is May 26. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.